



U.S. Small Business Administration

NEWS RELEASE

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SANTA ANA, CA - [Stronghold Engineering, Inc.](#) has been named the recipient of the Entrepreneurial Success Award by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The firm's president and CEO, Beverly A. Bailey, will be honored, along with other individuals, at the [47th Annual Small Business Week Awards luncheon, June 2nd, at the Embassy Suites Anaheim-South](#).

Entrepreneurial Success Award honorees must be individuals who own and operate businesses initially launched as small businesses according to SBA size standards and, with SBA assistance, subsequently developed into large businesses. "This award perfectly embodies the mission of the SBA- to provide resources to a small business so that they grow so large they exceed SBA's definition of a small business," responded Rachel Baranick, SBA Deputy Director, when asked to comment.

In 1991, Ms. Bailey founded Stronghold, an award-winning full service construction firm, with only \$3,000 in the company's bank account. During the first three years of Stronghold's operation, the focus was on small electrical contracts and development of the company's other markets, principally, the federal government. Within a short period of time thereafter, Stronghold and Ms. Bailey were pursuing government contract work throughout the Southwest.

As part of Stronghold's growth plan, Ms. Bailey knew that Stronghold required a strategic business partner - one that had tremendous resources, countless years of experience, and was willing to mentor Stronghold. Ms. Bailey turned to the SBA, which proved to be an invaluable partner over the next 10 years. In January 1995, Stronghold became certified into [SBA's 8\(a\) Business Development Program](#), a program designed to assist small disadvantaged businesses gain access to federal and private procurement contracts. In 1999, the company, again taking advantage of an SBA program, was certified as a [HUBZone](#) firm. The firm has also received counseling expertise from the [Orange County Small Business Development Center](#). Armed with SBA certifications and SBDC guidance, Ms. Bailey quickly grew Stronghold into a recognized and reliable competitor in the construction industry.

By the time Stronghold graduated from the 8(a) program in 2004, the firm employed more than 185 employees and had moved into its new 25,000 square foot Riverside corporate headquarters. In 2009, Ms. Bailey and Stronghold exceeded all expectations in challenging economic times by achieving nearly \$100 million in revenues and providing jobs to 250 people.

Ms. Bailey's strong personal faith, desire to help others and commitment to deliver promised results has become part of the culture at Stronghold. Stronghold has been repeatedly recognized for its quality and excellence, winning numerous industry awards and receiving hundreds of Outstanding Performance Evaluations and Letters of Commendation. Ms. Bailey implemented a Small Business Concern Program at Stronghold that reaches out to small businesses to help in their growth and development. She is also the founding chairwoman of the Society of American Military Engineer's National Small Business Council. Ms. Bailey is actively involved in philanthropic and industry-related associations, receiving numerous accolades for her efforts, including the SBA's Minority Small Business Person of the Year award in 2000.

Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has proclaimed National Small Business Week to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the economic well-being of America. Small businesses are major contributors to the strength of the American economy. More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business and they create 60-80 percent of new jobs in the country. As part

of the Presidential Proclamation, the U.S. Small Business Administration recognizes this special impact made by outstanding entrepreneurs and small business champions during activities in our nation's capital and locally on [June 2nd at the Embassy Suites - Anaheim South](#).

For more information about the 47th Annual Small Business Week Awards luncheon, contact Christopher Lorenzana at christopher.lorenzana@sba.gov or 714.560.7453.

To learn more about the U.S. Small Business Administration, visit www.sba.gov.

For more information about National Small Business Week, visit www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com.